

HOUSE BILL 684

**47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO GAMBLING; CONDUCTING A GAMBLING ADDICTION STUDY TO DETERMINE THE INCIDENCE OF SUICIDES AND BANKRUPTCIES IN WHICH GAMBLING DEBT IS INVOLVED; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. GAMBLING ADDICTION DATA COLLECTION.--

A. The department of health shall begin an ongoing process of gathering data on gambling addiction in New Mexico. The department shall establish standards to determine what constitutes a compulsive or problem gambler and collect data on the percent of the population who are active gamblers or compulsive gamblers and the number of gamblers who seek treatment.

B. The department of health shall adopt rules requiring that all suicide deaths or attempted suicides

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1 identified by law enforcement agencies or medical personnel be  
2 investigated to determine if the victim had gambling debts or  
3 compulsive gambling behaviors that may have been a factor in  
4 the cause of the suicide or the attempted suicide.

5 C. The department of health shall coordinate with  
6 the bankruptcy court in New Mexico to obtain data on compulsive  
7 gambling behavior or gambling debt that is found by the court  
8 to be a factor in all bankruptcies filed in New Mexico.

9 D. Beginning in fiscal year 2007, the department  
10 shall make reports at five-year intervals to an appropriate  
11 legislative interim committee no later than August on its  
12 findings regarding gambling addiction and the incidence of  
13 suicides and bankruptcies that involve gambling debt or  
14 compulsive gambling behavior in New Mexico. Two copies of the  
15 gambling report shall be filed with the legislative council  
16 service library every five years beginning in August 2007.

17 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred ten thousand  
18 dollars (\$110,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
19 department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 2006 to  
20 gather data on gambling addiction in New Mexico, conduct a  
21 study to determine the incidence of suicides and bankruptcies  
22 that involve gambling debt or compulsive gambling behavior and  
23 report to the legislature on the department's findings. Any  
24 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
25 fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

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